

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
SENATE LABOR AND COMMERCE STANDING COMMITTEE**

March 20, 2021

1:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Mia Costello, Chair
Senator Roger Holland, Vice Chair
Senator Joshua Revak (via Teams)
Senator Gary Stevens (via Teams)
Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson (via Teams)

MEMBERS ABSENT

All members present

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

CONFIRMATION HEARING(S)

State Physical Therapy & Occupational Therapy Board
Rebecca Dean - Fairbanks

- CONFIRMATION ADVANCED

Alaska Workers' Compensation Board
Christopher Dean - Fairbanks

- CONFIRMATION ADVANCED

Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers & Land Surveyors
Fred Wallis - Healy
Jeffrey Garness - Anchorage
Arpad "Bruce" Magyar - Anchorage

- CONFIRMATIONS ADVANCED

Board of Dental Examiners
Kelly Lucas - Wasilla

- CONFIRMATION ADVANCED

Fishermen's Fund Advisory & Appeals Council
Marilyn Charles - Emmonak

- CONFIRMATION ADVANCED

Board of Nursing

Lena Lafferty - Anchorage

Catherine Hample - Wasilla

- CONFIRMATIONS ADVANCED

Marijuana Control Board

Casey Dschaak - Dillingham

- CONFIRMATION ADVANCED

Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives

Bethel Belisle - Anchorage

- CONFIRMATION ADVANCED

Board of Social Work Examiners

Brandon Ercanbrack - Kotzebue

- CONFIRMATION ADVANCED

Board of Psychologists & Psychological Associate Examiners

Sherri Scott - Anchorage

- CONFIRMATION ADVANCED

Board of Examiners in Optometry

Pamela Steffes - Sitka

- CONFIRMATION ADVANCED

Occupational Safety and Health Review Board

John Stallone - Anchorage

- CONFIRMATION ADVANCED

Alaska Labor Relations Agency

Justin Mack - Anchorage

- CONFIRMATION ADVANCED

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

No previous action to record.

WITNESS REGISTER

REBECCA DEAN, Appointee
State Physical Therapy & Occupational Therapy Board
Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Fairbanks, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as appointee to the State Physical Therapy & Occupational Therapy Board.

FRED WALLIS, Appointee
Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers & Land Surveyors
Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Healy, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified for reappointment to the Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors.

MARILYN CHARLES, Appointee
Fishermen's Fund Advisory & Appeals Council
Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD)
Emmonak, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified for reappointment to the Fishermen's Fund Advisory & Appeals Council.

CATHERINE HAMPLE, Appointee
Board of Nursing
Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Wasilla, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Testified for reappointment to the Board of Nursing.

KELLY LUCAS, Appointee
Board of Dental Examiners
Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Wasilla, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as appointee to the Board of Dental Examiners.

BRANDON ERCANBRACK, Appointee
Board of Social Work Examiners
Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Kotzebue, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Testified for reappointment to the Board of Social Work Examiners

BETHEL BELISLE, Appointee
Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives

Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified for appointment to the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives.

CASEY DSCHAAK, Appointee
Marijuana Control Board
Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Dillingham, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as appointee to the Marijuana Control Board.

LENA LAFFERTY, Appointee
Board of Nursing
Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as appointee to the Board of Nursing.

CHRISTOPHER DEAN, Appointee
Alaska Workers' Compensation Board
Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD)
Fairbanks, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as appointee to the Alaska Workers' Compensation Board.

JOELLE HALL, President
Alaska AFL-CIO
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Christopher Dean to the labor seat on the Alaska Workers' Compensation Board.

SHERRI SCOTT, Appointee
Board of Psychologists & Psychological Associate Examiners
Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as appointee to the Board of Psychologists & Psychological Associate Examiners.

PAMELA STEFFES, Appointee
Board of Examiners in Optometry
Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Sitka, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified for reappointment to the Board of Examiners in Optometry.

JUSTIN MACK, Appointee

Alaska Labor Relations Agency

Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD)

Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as appointee to the Alaska Labor Relations Agency.

JOHN STALLONE, Appointee

Occupational Safety Health Review Board

Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD)

Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as appointee to the Occupational Safety Health Review Board.

JEFFREY GARNES, Appointee

Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers & Land Surveyors

Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development

Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as appointee to the Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors.

ARPAD "BRUCE" MAGYAR, Appointee

Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers & Land Surveyors

Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development

Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as appointee to the Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors.

ACTION NARRATIVE

[1:30:14 PM](#)

CHAIR MIA COSTELLO called the Senate Labor and Commerce Standing Committee meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Present at the call to order were Senators Stevens (via Teams), Gray-Jackson (via Teams), Holland, and Chair Costello. Senator Revak (via Teams) joined the committee soon thereafter.

CONFIRMATION HEARING(S)

State Physical Therapy & Occupational Therapy Board

Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers & Land Surveyors

Board of Dental Examiners

Fishermen's Fund Advisory & Appeals Council

Board of Nursing

Alaska Workers' Compensation Board

Marijuana Control Board
Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives
Board of Social Work Examiners
Board of Psychologists & Psychological Associate Examiners
Board of Examiners in Optometry
Occupational Safety and Health Review Board
Alaska Labor Relations Agency

[1:31:15 PM](#)

CHAIR COSTELLO announced the consideration of Governor Appointees to boards and commissioners. She explained the process.

She asked Rebecca Dean to introduce herself, provide a brief history, and her interest in serving on the State Physical Therapy & Occupational Therapy Board.

[1:32:47 PM](#)

REBECCA DEAN, Appointee, State Physical Therapy & Occupational Therapy Board, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED), Fairbanks, Alaska, stated that she has spent 33 years as a senior healthcare executive. She listed her credentials and related her interest in serving on this board to contribute experience, knowledge and wisdom to effectively ensure diligence in licensing, current standards, and access to healthcare for communities statewide. She brings a combination of work and board experience and has a strong sense of responsibility. Her belief is that individuals with a successful career have a responsibility to give back to the industry and communities that led to their career path. Her background and experience will help the board serve the public interest and protect the public.

CHAIR COSTELLO commented on her qualifications.

[1:37:06 PM](#)

SENATOR HOLLAND commended Ms. Dean on her career and interest in making the board better.

[1:37:39 PM](#)

CHAIR COSTELLO opened public testimony on the appointment of Rebecca Dean to the State Physical Therapy & Occupational Therapy Board; finding none, she closed public testimony.

CHAIR COSTELLO invited Fred Wallis to introduce himself, tell the committee about himself, and his interest in serving on the

Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors.

CHAIR COSTELLO recognized that Senator Revak had joined the committee (via Teams).

[1:38:19 PM](#)

FRED WALLIS, Appointee, Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED) Healy, Alaska, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED), stated that he is vice-president of engineering for Usibelli Coal Mine and has worked there for 24 years. He graduated from the mining program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and has professional engineering status in Canada and Alaska. He said he looks forward to serving another term on the board. He anticipates increased mining activity and therefore the need for more engineers. He emphasized that his number one priority is to maintain public safety.

CHAIR COSTELLO shared her passion to grow engineers, architects, and land surveyors in Alaska.

[1:39:51 PM](#)

CHAIR COSTELLO opened public testimony on the appointment of Fred Wallis to the Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyor; finding none, she closed public testimony.

CHAIR COSTELLO invited Marilyn Charles to introduce herself and testify on her candidacy to the Fishermen's Fund Advisory & Appeals Council.

[1:40:12 PM](#)

MARILYN CHARLES, Appointee, Fishermen's Fund Advisory & Appeals Council, Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD), Emmonak, Alaska, stated that she grew up in the fishing community of Emmonak but it wasn't until her first term on the board that she learned about the value of helping fishermen understand what the fishermen's fund can provide if they are injured while fishing. She has enjoyed serving and learned a lot the last three years and she looks forward to learning more if reappointed.

SENATOR STEVENS asked how many cases she deals with each year.

MS. CHARLES replied she had only reviewed denied claims since she started serving and the number of those cases ranges from 5 to 20 cases a day when the board is meeting.

SENATOR STEVENS thanked her for being willing to serve on the board that is so important to injured fishermen.

1:43:12 PM

CHAIR COSTELLO opened public testimony on the appointment of Marilyn Charles to the Fishermen's Fund Advisory & Appeals Council; finding none, she closed public testimony.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked Catherine Hample to introduce herself, provide a brief background, and her interest in serving on the Board of Nursing.

1:44:13 PM

CATHERINE HAMPLE, Appointee, Board of Nursing, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED), Wasilla, Alaska, stated that she started as a certified nurse's assistant (CNA) and now she is an RN with three master's degrees and has fulfilled the requirements for her doctorate in healthcare administration. She works fulltime as a correctional nurse manager at the Goose Creek Correctional Center and teaches part time at Charter College. She said this will be her second term serving to ensure that the citizens of Alaska receive safe nursing and that the programs that nurses and certified nursing assistants go through are appropriate.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked how the board addressed the demands on medical professionals during the pandemic.

MS. HAMPLE replied the board proactively tried to reduce the time it took for nurses coming to Alaska to get their temporary licenses. She offered her belief that the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) that provides a multistate license would be very helpful to bring nurses to Alaska. Nurses currently face the cost of additional licensure when they come to Alaska to help with a temporary situation such as COVID-19.

SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON asked what she sees as the responsibilities to serve on the Board of Nursing.

MS. HAMPLE clarified that she has been serving since 2019 and is the chair of education for nursing schools. She said her continued review of cases and review of the educational programs are responsibilities she will continue to fulfill.

1:48:06 PM

CHAIR COSTELLO opened public testimony on the appointment of Catherine Hample to the Board of Nursing; finding none, she closed public testimony.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked Kelly Lucas to introduce himself, provide a brief background, and tell the committee about his interest in serving on the Board of Dental Examiners.

1:48:33 PM

KELLY LUCAS, Appointee, Board of Dental Examiners, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED), Wasilla, Alaska, stated that he has practiced dentistry in Alaska for 35 years. He has served as a public health service officer and while in the Alaska Army National Guard he served as a dental officer and as the Dental Surgeon General for the State of Alaska. During his time in the Guard, he also worked in private practice throughout the state. He said his broad professional experience brings perspective and he looks forward to a second term.

CHAIR COSTELLO noted that his resume says he invented jaw logic. She asked him to share what that is.

DR. LUCAS replied it is a system of design software for things like full-mouth reconstruction and appliances for sleep apnea and bruxism.

SENATOR HOLLAND wished him luck on his invention and thanked him for his service.

1:52:33 PM

CHAIR COSTELLO opened public testimony on the appointment of Kelly Lucas to the Board of Dental Examiners; finding none, she closed public testimony.

CHAIR COSTELLO invited Brandon Ercanbrack to introduce himself and tell the committee about his interest in serving on the Board of Social Work Examiners.

1:52:59 PM

BRANDON ERCANBRACK, Appointee, Board of Social Work Examiners, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED), Kotzebue, Alaska, stated that he is a licensed clinical social worker who has been practicing about 10 years. He advised that he was nominated for reappointment and has enjoyed serving.

He related that during the pandemic, he saw social workers help people in ways he had not imagined and he feels it is important to continue to make improvements in the field to help Alaskans.

CHAIR COSTELLO noted his considerable experience in the field and thanked him for his service.

1:54:42 PM

CHAIR COSTELLO opened public testimony on the appointment of Brandon Ercanbrack to the Board of Social Work Examiners; finding none, she closed public testimony.

CHAIR COSTELLO invited Bethel Belisle to introduce herself and tell the committee about her interest in serving on the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives.

1:55:12 PM

BETHEL BELISLE, Appointee, Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED), Anchorage, Alaska, stated that she became a certified direct-entry midwife through apprenticeship and received her Alaska license in 1999. She is a preceptor both in Alaska and nationally and holds the national designation of Certified Professional Midwife. She said she owns and operates Haven Midwifery and Birth Center in Anchorage. She serves on several committees focused on perinatal quality control and is active in the Midwives Association of Alaska. She said her interest in serving is to see that Alaska women continue to have safe options for childbearing, to bring midwifery back to the villages, to see an increase in the number of Native birth workers, and to promote excellence in all areas of midwifery and the board.

CHAIR COSTELLO noted that her resume says she is a support group leader for postpartum depression and anxiety. She asked if she had seen more depression and anxiety in the last year and how she hopes to address this as a board member.

MS. BELISLE answered that about one in seven women nationally experience perinatal mood and anxiety disorders during the year that they have a child. In Alaska, one in four women typically experience these disorders but now one in two women experience some sort of mood or anxiety disorder during their childbearing year. She said midwives typically spend more one-on-one time with these mothers and families and they work to piece together the care they need. She said part of the board's goal is to

ensure that women have access to quality care and sometimes the touchpoint is the midwives that serve them.

1:58:41 PM

CHAIR COSTELLO opened public testimony on the appointment of Bethel Belisle to the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives; finding none, she closed public testimony.

CHAIR COSTELLO invited Casey Dschaak to introduce himself and tell the committee about his interest in serving on the Marijuana Control Board.

1:59:12 PM

CASEY DSCHAAK, Appointee, Marijuana Control Board, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED), Dillingham, Alaska, related his work experience after leaving the Army that included work as a local government specialist in Bristol Bay. He worked with many local communities and got to know municipalities and tribal governments in the region. He related that he has served on the board for a year and has enjoyed the work in this developing industry, particularly to ensure public trust. He shared that he will likely step away from the board by the end of the year to start a PhD program in Wyoming, but he believes the board would be served best if he were to remain until a replacement is found.

CHAIR COSTELLO said she recognizes that board members sometimes are unable to serve the entire term and he would be considered if he were willing to serve.

SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON thanked him for the notification and congratulated him on furthering his education. She asked him to restate when he would leave the board.

MR. DSCHAAK replied he would like to serve until a replacement is found for the rural seat and he believes he could stay through the end of the year, but his studies begin August 23, 2021

2:03:44 PM

CHAIR COSTELLO opened public testimony on the appointment of Casey Dschaak to the Marijuana Control Board; finding none, she closed public testimony.

CHAIR COSTELLO invited Lena M. Lafferty to introduce herself, provide a brief background, and tell the committee about her interest in serving on the Board of Nursing.

2:04:13 PM

LENA LAFFERTY, Appointee, Board of Nursing, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED), Anchorage, Alaska, stated that she has been serving on the Board of Nursing since July 2020 and she believes it has made giant strides instreaming the regulations for the profession while ensuring safe nursing practices. She related that she became a licensed registered nurse (RN) in 2006 and is currently working at Providence Medical Center as an operating room nurse. Before becoming a nurse, she served in the US Navy as a hospital corpsman. She said she is honored to be considered for this position and is committed to the Board of Nursing mission and will actively promote and protect the public through the safe and effective practice of nursing as defined by law.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked her to share her 10-year experience as a corpsman at the US Navy hospital.

MS. LAFFERTY replied it was a great experience. She related that the primary difference between a corpsman and a nurse is that she could not push IV drugs as a corpsman. She added that she thoroughly enjoys nursing and her goal is to work with nurses to improve the profession through more evidence-based practices, which will result in better nurses to serve Alaskans.

SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON thanked her for being willing to serve.
[Teleconference audio lost]

SENATOR HOLLAND thanked her for her service and asked if her spouse continued in the military.

MS. LAFFERTY answered yes and he retired in 2009.

SENATOR HOLLAND asked if the board streamlined processes to address identified problems or complications related to COVID-19.

MS. LAFFERTY replied it was a little of both.

SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON asked how long she and her family had lived in Alaska.

MS. LAFFERTY replied 15 years.

SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON asked what she sees as the biggest challenge facing the Board of Nursing.

MS. LAFFERTY replied that she would not identify it as a challenge, but it would help the people of Alaska if the legislature approved the Nursing Compact. That would make it possible for licensed nurses to come to Alaska and immediately start taking care of patients.

2:14:52 PM

CHAIR COSTELLO opened public testimony on the appointment of Lena Lafferty to the Board of Nursing; finding none, she closed public testimony.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked Christopher Dean to introduce himself, provide a brief background, and tell the committee about his interest in serving on the Alaska Workers' Compensation Board.

2:15:25 PM

CHRISTOPHER DEAN, Appointee, Alaska Workers' Compensation Board, Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD), Fairbanks, Alaska, stated that he moved to Alaska in 1987 and ultimately established his career in Fairbanks. He said his background is in healthcare and he currently serves as the Practice Manager for Foundation Health Orthopedics and Sports medicine at Foundation Health Partners. He also provides direct healthcare, safety advocacy, and safety education to athletes in the community and oversees a sports medicine outreach program. He noted his appointment as a non-perm Juvenile Justice Officer I at the Fairbanks Youth Facility from 2008 through 2015 and membership in the Alaska State Employees Association during that time. He said that his passion for service is a primary reason he applied to serve on the Alaska Workers' Compensation Board and he looks forward to serving the state in this capacity.

SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON pointed out that this appointment is to a labor position and suggested that since he is in management that he consider applying for the manager position on the board that is coming open and leave this position for someone who represents labor.

MR. DEAN said he understands the point and he would defer to the legislature to decide whether he is right for the position. He added that he would look for other opportunities to serve the state if he is not confirmed.

SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON thanked him for his testimony.

CHAIR COSTELLO opened public testimony on the appointment of Christopher Dean to the Alaska Workers' Compensation Board.

2:19:32 PM

JOELLE HALL, President, Alaska AFL-CIO, Anchorage, Alaska, stated that she was testifying in opposition to Christopher Dean's confirmation to serve in the labor seat on the Alaska Workers' Compensation Board because his qualifications violate the spirit of the law. She said the basis of workers' comp is that employees will have their injuries addressed and reviewed through a system that involves a balanced board. While Mr. Dean served in a bargaining unit years ago, today he holds a manager position at the Tanana Valley Clinic. The seat he is seeking is designated as a labor representative as outlined in AS 23.30.005. She said Mr. Dean's current employment as management and lack of meaningful current labor connections should disqualify him from holding a labor seat. She suggested that Mr. Dean is well qualified for one of the management positions that will be open later this year. She said his desire to serve is commendable but this board is designated in a specific way and a labor member is needed in the seat designated to represent labor.

2:21:59 PM

CHAIR COSTELLO found no further testimony and closed public testimony on the appointment of Christopher Dean for the Alaska Workers' Compensation Board.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked Sheri Scott to introduce herself and tell the committee about her interest in serving on the Board of Psychologists & Psychological Associate Examiners

2:22:34 PM

SHERRI SCOTT, Appointee, Board of Psychologists & Psychological Associate Examiners, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED), Anchorage, Alaska, stated that she was nominated in January 2021 and she offers 30 years of behavioral health service in Alaska. She has advanced education, specialized training, and knowledge in the field. She highlighted that she has been predominantly employed in clinical supervisory roles but has concurrently maintained direct care services in Anchorage and has trained many counselors. Her interest in serving on the board is to maintain high-quality professionals in the field and to ensure that high quality behavioral health services are available in the state. She said she has special aptitude in the areas of quality assurance

oversight and ethics and is passionate about high quality, evidence-based, and cutting-edge behavioral health services.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked what she sees as the biggest challenge facing this board in 2021.

DR. SCOTT replied that she is aware of ongoing needs awaiting resolution. She foresees many practitioners moving into private practice, and she recognizes that telepsychology has changed day-to-day business practices. Further, there are burgeoning mental health disorders and significant stress among youth and families due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She said she recognizes that the learning curve to serve on the board will be steep, but she is committed to work hard to address these issues.

[2:25:58 PM](#)

CHAIR COSTELLO opened public testimony on the appointment of Dr. Scott to the Board of Psychologists & Psychological Associate Examiners; finding none, she closed public testimony.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked Pamela Steffes to introduce herself, provide a brief background, and tell the committee about her interest in serving on the Board of Examiners in Optometry.

[2:26:21 PM](#)

PAMELA STEFFES, Appointee, Board of Examiners in Optometry, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED), Sitka, Alaska, stated that she is standing for reappointment to the Board of Examiners in Optometry. She informed the committee that the committee was reviewing documents she submitted for her 2020 confirmation hearing and the copy of her Alaska optometry license is outdated. It currently expires in December 2022. She related that she had worked for SEARCH for about 22 years, serving patients throughout Southeast. As a hospital-based optometrist, she said she would provide a unique perspective for the board. She likes that the board works to ensure public safety while governing the practice of optometry, particularly with the recent expanded scope. She said she looks forward to continuing to serve.

[2:27:42 PM](#)

CHAIR COSTELLO opened public testimony on the appointment of Pamela Steffes to the Board of Examiners in Optometry; finding none, she closed public testimony.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked Justin Mack to introduce himself, provide a brief background, and tell the committee about his interest in serving on the Alaska Labor Relations Agency.

[2:28:09 PM](#)

JUSTIN MACK, Appointee, Alaska Labor Relations Agency, Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD), Anchorage, Alaska, stated that he was born and raised in Alaska and he serves as a captain for the Anchorage Fire Department. Prior work experience includes fishing in the Bering Sea and work on the North Slope. He has worked on the Alaska Workers' Compensation Board for the past three years and looks forward to this appointment.

[2:29:21 PM](#)

CHAIR COSTELLO opened public testimony on the appointment of Justin Mack to the Alaska Labor Relations Agency; finding none, she closed public testimony.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked John Stallone to introduce himself, provide a brief background, and tell the committee about his interest in serving on the Occupational Safety Health Review Board.

[2:29:47 PM](#)

JOHN STALLONE, Appointee, Occupational Safety Health Review Board, Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD), Anchorage, Alaska, stated that he is a 5th generation Alaskan. He related that his 22-year career in safety started while he served in the US Air Force and the Alaska Air National Guard. He described specific work experience leading to his current position as safety coordinator for the Water and Sewer Department for the North Slope Borough. Over the course of his career, he has held positions working both towards compliance and as a compliance officer. He has an intricate knowledge of how things work and said he would like to be part of the three-body system that includes this board working toward worker safety.

CHAIR COSTELLO stated that she is always impressed with the quality and passion of Alaskans applying for positions on the more than 200 boards. She expressed appreciation for his service.

SENATOR HOLLAND thanked all the nominees and echoed the previous comments.

[2:34:17 PM](#)

CHAIR COSTELLO opened public testimony on the appointment of John Stallone for the Occupational Safety Health Review Board; finding none, she closed public testimony.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked Jeff Garness to introduce himself, provide a brief background, and tell the committee about his interest in serving on the Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyor.

2:34:56 PM

JEFFREY GARNESS, Appointee, Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyor, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED), Anchorage, Alaska, stated that he has lived in Alaska for 52 years and earned his engineering degrees from UA. He is a licensed civil and environmental engineer in private practice for over 30 years. He related that he has served on numerous boards in the past and on this board for the last year awaiting confirmation. He opined that his business and board experience would help him to serve effectively on the AELS Board. Engineering is his passion and the future for his children so he has great interest in ensuring the integrity of the profession. He said he is ready, willing, and able to serve.

2:37:24 PM

CHAIR COSTELLO opened public testimony on the appointment of Jeffrey Garness to the Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors; finding none, she closed public testimony.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked Arpad "Bruce" Magyar to introduce himself, provide a brief background, and tell the committee about his interest in serving on the Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors.

2:37:57 PM

ARPAD "BRUCE" MAGYAR, Appointee, Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED), Anchorage, Alaska, stated that he brings public and private sector experience to this appointment as a public member of the State AELS Board. He recounted his expansive work experience and posited that he would bring a unique perspective to the board.

CHAIR COSTELLO expressed appreciation that, through his testimony, the committee was able to get to know him a bit better.

[2:42:23 PM](#)

CHAIR COSTELLO opened public testimony on the appointment of Arpad "Bruce" Magyar, Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors; finding none, she closed public testimony.

[2:42:36 PM](#)

SENATOR HOLLAND stated that in accordance with AS 39.05.080, the Senate Labor and Commerce Standing Committee reviewed the following and recommends the appointments be forwarded to a joint session for consideration:

State Physical Therapy & Occupational Therapy Board

- Rebecca Dean - Fairbanks

Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers & Land Surveyors

Fred Wallis - Healy

Jeffrey Garness - Anchorage

Arpad "Bruce" Magyar - Anchorage

Fishermen's Fund Advisory & Appeals Council

Marilyn Charles - Emmonak

Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives

Bethel Belisle - Anchorage

Marijuana Control Board

Casey Dschaak - Dillingham

Board of Social Work Examiners

Brandon Ercanbrack - Kotzebue

Board of Nursing

Lena Lafferty - Anchorage

Catherine Hample - Wasilla

[Board of Dental Examiners

Kelly Lucas] - Wasilla

Alaska Workers' Compensation Board

Christopher Dean - Fairbanks

Board of Psychologists & Psychological Associate Examiners

Sherri Scott - Anchorage

Board of Examiners in Optometry
Pamela Steffes - Sitka

Alaska Labor Relations Agency
Justin Mack - Anchorage

Occupational Safety and Health Review Board
John Stallone - Anchorage

Signing the reports regarding appointments to boards and commissions in no way reflects individual members' approval or disapproval of the appointees; the nominations are merely forwarded to the full legislature for confirmation or rejection.

CHAIR COSTELLO found no objection and the names were forwarded to the full body for consideration.

[2:44:50 PM](#)

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chair Costello adjourned the Senate Labor and Commerce Standing Committee meeting at 2:44 p.m.